

REQUEST FOR RETURN OF COPYRIGHT DEPOSITS

FEB 24 1925

Dated at Washington D. C.

February 24,, 1925.

Register of Copyrights,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

10686 FEB 24 '25

Dear Sir:

The undersigned claimant of copyright in the work herein named,
deposited in the Copyright Office and duly registered for copyright pro-
tection, requests the return to him under the provisions of sections 59 and
60 of the Act of March 4, 1909, of ~~XXXXXX~~ both of the deposited copies of the
Ford Motion Pictures Laboratory film entitled "City of Mexico"
(film #89) (two prints)
deposited in the Copyright Office on February 24, 1925 and registered
under Class....., XXc., No. M 2908.

If this request can be granted you are asked and authorized to send
the said copy or copies to me at the following address: Ford Motor Company
451 Pa. Ave., Washington D C (Will Call) or
to.....
at.....

Ford Motor Company
Signed Adv. Mgr. S. C. Wainwright
(Claimant of Copyright)

(Sept., 1922—500)

Received Two copies of the above film:

Ford Motor Company

By

[Signature]

FEB 26 1925

FEB 24 1925

Ford Educational Library

✓ Foreign Countries ✓

(89) City of Mexico ✓



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by

Ford
MOTION PICTURE
LABORATORIES
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

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Foreign Countries

(89) City of Mexico

Mexico City is the oldest city of North America. Cortez in 1521 conquered this city which then contained 300,000 Indians living in a highly civilized community. The Indians were Aztecs and were ruled by the Indian king, Montezuma. Cortez and the Spanish army destroyed nearly all the Aztec civilization in Mexico. Some of the old altars and pyramids still remain. A few of the stone images worshiped by these people are still preserved.

Mexico City might be said to begin with the establishment of the Cathedral in 1575. This building is one of the most famous cathedrals in North America. It is Spanish in its architecture and its interior is richly ornamented with paintings, beautiful frescos and fine carvings. This city, with its Spanish buildings and large population of Indians, is one of America's most interesting cities. The city is built on a plateau surrounded by lofty mountains. It is located in a group of lake basins which were drained to improve sanitary conditions. It is 2,000 feet higher in altitude than Denver, which accounts for its good climate and its clear atmosphere. The city is modern but all its surroundings reflect the former Spanish rulers. Its population is largely Indian and numbers nearly half a million people. It has water works, electric lights, street cars and beautiful boulevards, but the most interesting of all are its cathedrals and other buildings that are 370 years old.

This pictorial story of Mexico City gives some of the historical background that has made it one of the most interesting Spanish cities in the Western Hemisphere.

FILM PRESENTATION

In the presentation of the film of Mexico City, the class should have some introduction. If the questions and problems are solved before the film is shown, the class will have sufficient background. If the film is shown to stimulate and interest the class, some introductory questions should be given to aid the observation. A second or third showing of the film will enable the pupil to verify his observation and will be a review. The teacher should be familiar with this synopsis and should read some of the references.

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS.

1. Why is the largest city of Mexico located inland?
2. Explain the temperate climate of Mexico City.
3. What is the population of Mexico City?
4. What per cent of the people in Mexico City are Indians?
5. Give the meaning of each of the following words: peon, patio, adobe, poinsettia and plaza.
6. Who were the Aztecs?
7. Read the story of Montezuma's struggle against Cortez.
8. Tell the story of the conquest of Mexico by Cortez.
9. Why are there no monuments to Cortez in the City of Mexico?
10. What are tortillas?
11. How did Mexico City obtain water in ancient days?
12. What is the purpose of the Viga canals in Mexico City?
13. Can you give any reason for the civil turmoil that has existed in Mexico for so long?
14. Account for the lack of transportation facilities in Mexico.

REFERENCES

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Carpenter..... | North America. |
| 2. Enoch..... | Mexico. |
| 3. Martson..... | Mexico of the Twentieth Century |
| 4. Parsons..... | Mexico. |
| 5. Prescott..... | Conquest of Mexico. |
| 6. Trowbridge..... | Mexico. |
| 7. Wells..... | Mexico. |
| 8. Winter..... | Mexico and Her People Today. |

TITLES OF SCENES.

(The heavy type is the film title. Below each title are a few comments to make clear the action of the scene. These comments may be used when the film is being shown, if the teacher so desires.)

Mexico City was a flourishing Aztec village when taken by the Spanish in 1521. The Aztecs built pyramids resembling those of Egypt.

(According to Prescott, the historian, Mexico is the oldest city in North America. It had 50,000 buildings and 300,000 inhabitants at the time it was conquered by the Spanish.)

The pyramids were 200 feet high, built of stone and cement.

(These pyramids are near Mexico City and are the largest structures made by ancient people in America. The pyramids measure 700 feet on each side at the base.)

Stairs leading to the top.

(Ceremonial processions used the steps in marching to the top of the pyramid.)

These structures were temples on which human sacrifices were offered.

(The early Aztec people had a high state of civilization but included in their laws rites in which human beings were sacrificed to their god. These sacrifices took place on the flat summit of these pyramids.)

Aztec idols resemble those of China.

(Recent discoveries have been made of the close resemblance between the Chinese idols and those of ancient Mexico. These idols are those of the God of War, the Sun and the Moon.)

A stone calendar used by the Aztecs.

(This stone calendar was the ancient method of reckoning the years and months. Experts have found this ancient calendar to be remarkably accurate.)

Mexico City of today has 470,000 people. The Plaza de Constitucion and the Cathedral.

(This plaza was formerly the site of an Aztec temple which was destroyed by Cortez. The Cathedral was founded in 1575. Most of the building material was derived from former Aztec temples.)

The Cathedral is built on the site of an Aztec temple.

(The Cathedral's walls are built like a fortress and it has several times been used to quarter troops. This is the oldest cathedral building in America.)

Founded in 1575, cost \$2,000,000. The interior contains priceless paintings.

(The great dome is adorned with fine frescos and from its center hangs an enormous chandelier. The interior decorations cost several million dollars. The paintings are priceless, one of which is a genuine Murillo.)

The twin towers have twenty-one bells. The largest one is sixteen feet high and it can be heard six miles.

(The towers are 200 feet high and built in the Spanish style. The bells are large and unusually fine. When they ring at sunset, it recalls the romance of the Spanish days.)

The National Palace is the headquarters of the Republic of Mexico.

(Mexico is a republic consisting of thirty-one states and territories. The constitution resembles that of the United States. The large number of ignorant people make government difficult.)

Alameda Park has beautiful fountains.

(This is the fashionable parade park of Mexico City. It is the ambition of all Mexicans to have a fine carriage for the Sunday drive in this beautiful park.)

The Independent Monument commemorates the hundredth anniversary of independence from Spain.

(Cortez, who conquered Mexico City, was most cruel in his treatment of the natives. For three centuries the natives were virtually slaves, until independence was won in 1821.)

Paseo de la Reforma, the city's most beautiful boulevard.

(This beautiful boulevard is two miles in length and is bordered by a double row of eucalyptus trees. At intervals are large circles in which are statues of Mexico's famous men. The plan of this boulevard was made by the unfortunate Maximilian.)

At the end of the Paseo is the Castle of Chapultepec.

(The boulevard extended to the famous hill on which was the ancient palace of the Aztec king.)

On Chapultepec hill was Montezuma's palace.

(No American city has had the tragic beginning of Mexico City. Thousands of the Aztecs were brutally massacred by Cortez in the conquest of the city. Montezuma, the Indian king, was betrayed and cruelly tortured.)

This giant cypress sheltered Montezuma, the last king of the Aztecs.

(Montezuma held court under this tree. This famous Aztec king was sacrificed to the Indians of Mexico. No monument in Mexico has been erected to the cruel Spanish conqueror Cortez.)

Primitive transportation prevails.

(Mexico has developed comparatively few good roads. The burro on the narrow trail is the most common means of transportation.)

Bringing wood into the city.

(Mexico contains very meager coal resources. Wood is universally used in the form of charcoal. None of the houses have chimneys or modern heating facilities.)

Three-fourths of the people are full-blooded Indians, some wear large hats and heavy blankets.

(The large hats are highly prized by the men. The blankets, or serapeos, are made of heavy wool. The Indian and his blanket are never separated.)

Street peddlers are common.

(Mexico is still a land of simple handcraft. The street vendor tells fortunes, sells food and handmade articles. This is the bird seller.)

The jug and bottle market.

(Each house has its collection of utensils for food purposes. All the bottles are made of clay, shaped by hand and decorated with curious Aztec symbols.)

The peon's home.

(The peon is a half-breed and he is almost a slave. This simple-minded Mexican, without any opportunities for education, does the work of the nation. Most of the miners are peons who live in wretched adobe huts near the mines.)

The thatched roof is made of palm leaves.

(The simple mud or adobe wall has a roof of heavy palm leaves.)

About Spanish homes are high walls inclosing the inner court or patio.

(This is the Spanish method of building a home. It serves for privacy and in early days every home was a fort.)

The patio is bright with fruit trees, flowers and fountains.

(A patio is generally the most beautiful part of the home. It is a garden and a cool retreat.)

A tree of luscious figs.

(In the patio there is generally a few of the tropical fruit trees. This is the fig.)

The banana flourishes.

(In the patio the banana tree is grown for its shade and fruit.)

Spanish señoritas in the patio.

(The Spanish type is well represented by these ladies who are in the patio.)

The poinsettia tree.

(The poinsettia in this Mexican garden is a tree of remarkable beauty with its bright red flowers.)

The Vega Canals were started by the Aztecs.

(These wonderful canals which drain the marshes about Mexico City, were started by the Aztecs before the city was conquered by the Spanish.)

The Indian gondolier poles the boat through the muddy water.

(Mexico City was established on a marsh and as the city grew it was necessary to drain it. It has cost an immense sum to complete this drainage system. The boats are poled and paddled.)

Vegetables are raised in the gardens along the canal.

(The water from the canals is used to irrigate the vegetables grown for the city market.)

Fruit and vegetables for market.

(This shows a boat loaded with vegetables produced on irrigated land and being taken to market in the city.)

Baking tortillas or corn pancakes, a national dish.

(The tortillas are made from corn flour which is baked on hot stones or sheet iron. The corn pancake, for that is what it is, is sometimes rolled up and filled with beans or peppers.)

The palace gardens of the former Empress Charlotte.

(This beautiful garden of the unhappy Empress Charlotte is marvelous for its tropical beauty.)

These aqueducts have supplied water for over 200 years.

(The only water supplied to the ancient city flowed through these aqueducts, which were constructed by the Spanish. The aqueducts still supply water although the city has a modern water system.)

Mexico, the oldest of American cities, preserves in its churches the ideas of its Spanish conquerors.

(The Spanish who conquered Mexico destroyed practically all of the writing and monuments of the ancient Aztecs and built in their place, with the enforced labor of the Indians, cathedrals and public works. Nearly all of the churches reflect Spanish ideals.)

Great wealth and years of labor were given to the building and decorating of the many churches in the city.

(Some of the carvings and architecture of these old Spanish churches are beautiful.)

And yet, the city will always recall the cruelty of Cortez, its founder, whose conquest destroyed the ancient Aztec city of 400,000 Indians.

(Mexico City is the oldest of American cities. It has taken several centuries to recover from the cruelty and plundering of the Spanish. Within the city are excellent educational facilities and many important industries. Mexico's great problem is in educating its people who have been neglected for centuries.)

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